Indian workers in Gulf countries

2170. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of number of workers migrated to various Gulf countries from India, Gulf country-wise, whose passports were taken away by their employees and exploited as worst than slaves and are not allowed to come back to India and a large number of whom are in jails for various offences related to migration, who had been cheated by the agents of such employers, who are freely functioning in India;

(b) the details of the action taken by Government so far, to relieve such migrated workers and the details of cases booked so far against such unscrupulous agents functioning in India; and

(c) if not, the detailed reasons for not taking any action?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (c) As per information received from the Indian Missions in Gulf countries, the sponsors normally retain the passports of the employees when they reach the destination country in order to obtain work permit /extension or renewal of visas and for security reasons as well as to discourage lateral movement of the emigrant workers to other employers. Such passports are returned to the employees by the sponsor in case of need, such as foreign travel or return to India. In case of any inconvenience reported, the concerned Mission immediately takes up the case with the sponsor directly and with the local authorities through local foreign office.

Security and assistance to Indians working abroad

†2171. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the role of Government's newly constituted Ministry for the security and assistance of Indian workers working abroad;

(b) whether Government have details of Indian workers working abroad, their workplaces and conditions like compliance of labour laws etc.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.